

## **George Sirian Award Presented aboard USS Constitution**

USS Constitution Public Affairs

CHARLESTOWN, Mass.—The USS Constitution Chapter of the Surface Navy Association (SNA) presented their eighth annual George Sirian award aboard USS Constitution while underway, Aug. 27.

The SNA awarded Senior Chief Engineman (SW) Corbin Stalcup for demonstrating exceptional seamanship, operational excellence and inspirational leadership while serving as the engineering leading chief petty officer aboard USS Freedom (LCS 1), Gold Crew.

"Receiving the George Sirian award is a very humbling experience," said Stalcup, a Goldthwaite, Texas native, who was chosen from 27 nominees from both the Pacific and Atlantic surface fleets. "And where else would be better to receive an award like this? With all this history on the Constitution, it connects you to our Navy today and gives you a sense of pride and heritage."

Stalcup received a 19th century naval cutlass in front of Constitution's crew and approximately 150 chief petty officer (CPO) selectees completing CPO Heritage Week, Aug. 23-27. The SNA also awarded him with a framed citation during a luncheon later in the day at the Boston Marriott Long Wharf.

"Stalcup is the best of the best," said retired Capt. Jim Alosi, USS Constitution Chapter SNA president. "He was dealt with a very unique situation on a brand new ship. Because of his efforts, he accelerated his engineering plant's mission readiness so the Freedom could get underway two-and-a-half years early."

Every year for two weeks, Constitution Sailors hold CPO Heritage Weeks, teaching 300 selectees, including Sailors from the British Royal navy, a variety of time-honored maritime evolutions. The training is designed to instill pride in naval heritage and build esprit de corps while living and working aboard the oldest commissioned warship afloat in the world.

Stalcup is one of the mentor CPOs helping selectees as they undergo the rigors of the CPO induction process.

"From the get-go, he was somebody I wanted to emulate," said Chief Boatswain's Mate (Sel.) (SW) Mitch Inkpen. "He portrays core values. I was lucky I was able to be mentored by him."

George Sirian served in the Navy for nearly 50 years, one of the longest active-duty careers in Navy history. During his service, Sirian rose through the ranks from seaman to master gunner, and eventually warrant officer. He is also the only Sailor to serve three separate tours of duty aboard Constitution.

“This event is one of my favorites in which we participate,” said Cmdr. Timothy Cooper, 71<sup>st</sup> in command of Constitution. “Since this award recognizes the chief Navywide who most exemplifies surface warfare excellence, I would say that it is highly appropriate to name it after Constitution’s longest serving crew member and a man known for his dedication to his country, ship and shipmates.”

Stalcup enlisted in the Navy in 1995. His previous duty assignments include USS Crommelin (FFG 37), USS Black Hawk (MHC 58) and the Mine Warfare Training Center in Ingleside, Texas. His personal awards include the Navy Commendation Medal, seven Navy Achievement Medals and four Good Conduct awards.

Constitution is located in the Charlestown Navy Yard of Boston Harbor and welcomes more than 500,000 visitors a year. For more information on Constitution, visit <http://www.history.navy.mil/ussconstitution/> or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ussconstitutionofficial](http://www.facebook.com/ussconstitutionofficial).